

**DRAFTER'S NOTE**  
**FROM THE**  
**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

LRB-2421/1dn  
MES:jld:cph

May 5, 2003

Representative Gunderson:

Your instructions stated that you wanted to prohibit local governments from enacting or amending zoning ordinances that would have the effect of “amortizing” billboards. The instructions defined “amortizing” in this context as a zoning ordinance that would force a person to discontinue the use of a nonconforming billboard after a specified number of years.

Your instructions were based on a Minnesota statute. As far as I can tell, the concept of an “amortizing” zoning ordinance is not authorized under Wisconsin law. Consequently, the approach I took to achieve your intent in this bill is to add billboards to the statutes that prevent local governments from, under most circumstances, prohibiting the continued use of a nonconforming building or premises. I believe that this bill achieves your intent and is consistent with Wisconsin law governing nonconforming uses. Please let me know if you’d like me to make any changes in the bill.

Also, in the third sentence of s. 62.23 (7) (h), “building” is mentioned and I’ve added “billboard”; do you want to add “premises” also?

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